

The BULLETIN

SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

OXFORD, NEW JERSEY

By

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Minister



Oxford Historical Record

Horses Galore
by Samuel J. Cooper
(Continued from last Issue)

There are a few of the teamsters I recall in addition to those mentioned by Mr. Kempsey.

James Pittenger, who, if I have not got the names confused, drove a gun team in the Civil War. He also was an old time charcoal hauler. One day when I had 'bummed' a ride with him he showed me a large callous on the top of his head, worn there by the huge (five bushel) baskets of charcoal he placed there to raise them high enough to dump the contents into the wagon rack.

James Freemantle, Isaac Reese, Jesse Snyder, James Clawson, George (Hawkey) Shafer, of whom it was said that he would not leave his team until it was dry and properly fed and watered, no matter how wet, cold, tired and hungry he might be himself.

I recall one incident of how mules improved under his care.

It was a team of five hooked tandem to shift cars to different parts of the rolling-mill section. They were poor, dejected and dispirited animals when he took charge of them.

Soon they moved with more life, looked smoother and performed their work with ease. A short time after I noticed there were but three in the team as it went to and from the stables. These three were doing the work that had required five, and were sleek and fat and full of life and play.

I feel there is one more name I must add to the list of drivers-- not a wielder of the long lash or the cutting 'black snake'-- whose harshest instrument of persuasion was a small limb or piece of brush broken from a tree he might pass; but who was nevertheless a real part of Oxford. He sat on the corner of a dump cart taking this or that from one part of the plant to another years after age would have entitled him to retire.

I often wondered how the old man could put the harness on the large horse and secure him in the cart shafts; but Thomas Glenn worked on.

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Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

---Romans 8:26

"O God, who hast in mercy taught us how good it is to follow the holy desires which Thou dost put into our hearts, and how bitter is the grief of falling short of whatever beauty our minds behold; so we pray for strength to walk steadfastly through life in the better path which our hearts once chose; and give us wisdom to tread it prudently in thy fear, as well as cheerfully in thy love; so that having been faithful to Thee in this life, we may be able hopefully to resign ourselves into thy hands in the hereafter Amen."

To-day canvassers will wait upon the members of our Congregation for pledges in support of the church expenses for the coming year. All members are expected to subscribe some stated amount, and this, however small, will help the church, and be a blessing to those who obligate themselves to give a little in support of the church.

Pledges for the support of the great Benevolent Boards of our should also be made, for these agencies are doing a marvelous work in all parts of the world in building up the kingdom of God.

Let us be loyal to our great and growing Church.

Rev. D. Linton Deherly, a former Pastor of this Church, has moved to Kingston, N.Y. where he is the Pastor of the Roundout Church.

The good wishes of his many old friends here will be with him and his family in their new home, and prayers for the divine blessing upon his labors there.

Miss Fannie Person died Mch. 15. Notice in next issue.

Mr. Humphrey sends a letter he has just received from Dr. George DeB. Keim, Chairman of the State Commission on Historic Sites.

Dr. Keim Says:-

"I recall very well your appearing before the Committee on Appropriations with reference to giving us an amount for the restoration of Oxford Furnace. The Committee gave us ample funds with which to take care of this project, but unfortunately the amount was cut down by the Legislature from \$22,500 to \$15,000, which made it entirely impossible for us to undertake anything more than the usual maintenance of the buildings and monuments now open to the public.

"We requested funds in our last Budget for improving Oxford Furnace and the Committee at our hearing did not allow us anything for this purpose. Our Appropriation this year will be \$16,000, \$1,000 more than last year.

"You can rest assured that we are most anxious to proceed with the restoration of this most historic spot, but unfortunately, on account of the conditions of the State finances, we have been unable to secure the funds necessary to do the work.

"I shall have Mr. Marple see Mr. Yount in the next month or two with a view to ascertain whether or not something might be done to prevent the condition of collapse about which you speak in your letter.

Mr. Humphrey sends a note with the above letter in which he says-

"The enclosed letter from Dr. Keim indicates interest, but doesn't hold out much hope for any substantial appropriation for Oxford.

"If you have advanced notice of Mr. Marple's visit, and if it would be agreeable to you, I should like very much to be present when he inspects the furnace. It seems to me that a small sum, say \$200 or so, would be sufficient to clear the vegetation away from the stack, and point up some of the crevices between the stones, so as to keep the moisture out and prevent disintegration, and rebuild the fallen arch above the fore-hearth/mouth

(Horses Galore: from front cover)

Let me continue the parade Ed. started; and perhaps to some a memory of the past will come which will turn back the hands of time and let us live over again the joys, pleasure and ambitions of former days.

Of the names of the horses I know only a few, but the horse and its owner have associations which identify them. So here goes:-

1. A little sorrel nubbie owned and driven by Dr. Hertzpence.
2. A black that Dr. Dearborn drove.
3. A roan that Dr. Hoagland gave plenty of exercise.
4. A white with splashes of color that responded to Dr. Tunison's call of Fred.

With what anxiety had these horses been watched for as the carriers of the agents of relief and healing!

5. A grey recalls Sen. Walton the Taylor.
6. A chestnut brown, said to have been in the two-forty class of trotters, reminds us of Capt. Lampshire, Supt. of one of the "Mud Mines."
7. Jack--yes, a jackass on #3 farm, a wise fellow who knew when it was about time to churn. It was his job to furnish the power, but would sneak off into the meadows and hide in the brush. I remember first seeing him one day when he passed the school-house with Ellsworth Hender-shot astride him, his feet almost reaching the ground.

8. Charley and Maud, a team of dappled greys on #3 farm, generally handled by the farmer himself--Nathan Polhemus--a beautiful team of general purpose animals. I drove them many a day.

9. Then there was the "Dutchman" a large horse which, hooked in a cart, had been backed over a cinder dump and suffered a severe burn. The treating of the injury had somewhat soured his disposition, and he was inclined to be vicious.

10. A buckskin, Frank, otherwise known as 'Levie's Pet,' a peculiar dispositioned animal. Apparently vicious, but his driver had trained him so that a sly poke in the ribs was the signal to lay back his ears, open his (over)

and start for anyone near his head.

I drove him and the 'Dutchman' a number of days and found them to be a good, serviceable farm team.

11. A team of medium to small bays driven by Marvin Pierson from Scott's Mountain when he served milk to Oxford. Good horse and driver that always came through if any one could.

12. A team of leggy dappled greys driven to the milk-wagon by Geo. P. Dreisbach of farm #1, who took over the Pierson milk route. Ed, how did you miss them? They did not miss leaving milk for you.

13. A little black horse that brought J.W. Cooper to the Drug Store and Post Office every afternoon.

14. Then there was a team of bays with which Geo. Wildrick delivered coal all around Oxford.

15. A small bay mare, Nettie, Chas. Pool drove in connection with his carpenter business and for pleasure.

16. W., A. Jones had a team of bays Kate and Frank, that plowed gardens and did hauling through the week and Sundays brought the family to Church. In the winter, during the 'Week of Prayer' and special services which usually lasted for some time, hooked to a large sled, they would bring a load from Jonestown to the services nearly every night.

17. Samuel Jones had four horses I remember: Dan, and iron grey to whose back grandfather would hoist me and I would sit like a big toad and ride to the stable. Harry, a black. Miss Person could tell of his performances, how he kicked a hole in the dash-board of the wagon one morning when grandfather was taking her and Miss Innes (Mrs. Chas. Weisburn) to school.

Kate, a bay mare. I wonder if Clin remembers the night after church when my cousin, Maggie Cook, and I started for home and the mare started to climb up over a pile of timber along the upper side of the church. He assisted Maggie out and I succeeded in getting started towards Jonestown. Well, a quick trip to Hartman's Corner and return was made, in fact so quick I met Clin, and the young lady about a hundred yards above the German church. By this time the horse

had become tractable and Maggie and I made the home without further adventure.

The fourth was, Frank, a brown gelding, kind and gentle, an exceptional animal which grandfather drove till he was over eighty.

18. One more comes to my mind, a bay, I think, driven once a month from Bath, Pa. by the German Reform minister, Rev. Leisberger, to a buggy only wide enough to hold one person. And so built by my father to the minister's special specifications. The trip being a long hard drive he thought it unjust to require the horse to pull any additional load, and at the same time he disliked to refuse people a ride when they asked for a 'lift' and he had an empty seat.

He therefore took this way of saving his horse--and himself.

Mrs. Herbert B. Cox makes a very good suggestion about the Oxford Library, of which she was one of the original founders:-

"I think your readers would be interested in an article on the history of the Library which Miss Grace Hoagland, who was the Librarian for many years, could ably write; and then add the No. of library readers now, and also the names of the present members of the Board. If I had this data I could interest more friends in the Library, and perhaps be able to send even better donations than the last."

The Bulletin heartily joins in this request to Miss Hoagland to prepare an historical record of the Library, which would be of even more value to future generations than to the present.

"There will be a meeting of the Hillside Cemetery Association on Sunday, March, 19th, at two o'clock in the Colonial M. E. Church. The presence of all trustees and officers is urgently requested."

--Mrs. Bessie Henderson
Secretary

